



## **STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND MEDIA ON GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO TAKE ATI BILL TO PARLIAMENT**

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The Access to Information (ATI) Coalition would like to acknowledge the announcement by Government on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 through the Minister of Information and Media (MIM) and the Chief Government Spokesperson Hon. Cornelius Mweetwa that it has taken the ATI Bill to Parliament for consideration, debate and enactment into law.

Whilst this development has been long-awaited, we believe that the most important thing is not just to have an Access to information Law in Zambia, but to have an Access to Information Law whose content reflects the will and aspirations of the Zambian people. The Zambian people would like to have a law that meets all the global and regional framework on the right to access to information. In particular we would like our Access to Information Law to embrace principles of maximum disclosure, limited scope of exceptions and public interest to mention but a few.

The intended purpose of an Access to Information Law is to allow members of the public to access public documents that affect them and the nation at large. Therefore, the Access to Information Coalition will study the Bill to see if the intended purpose has been met and will give a more comprehensive statement in the coming week.

Fr. Alex Muyebe, S.J.

**ATI Coalition Chairperson**

### **About the ATI Coalition**

The Access to Information Coalition is an alliance of Civil Society Organizations that are dedicated to making access to information a reality in Zambia. Constituted in 2011, the Coalition has tirelessly worked towards a deepened public awareness of the importance of having access to accurate information, the value of a democracy in which government is transparent and accountable, and the necessity for Zambia to enact legislation and to advocate for constitutional reform which gives concrete expression to these principles.

## List of Members of the ATI Coalition

1. Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection
2. Misa Zambia
3. Panos Institute Southern Africa
4. Creating A Place For All - (CAPFA)
5. The Southern African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (SACCORD)
6. Operation Young Vote
7. Gears Initiative
8. Foundation for Democratic Process (FODEP)
9. Transparency International-Zambia (TIZ)
10. Action-Aid Zambia
11. Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR)
12. Common Cause Zambia (CCZ)
13. Media Liaison Committee
14. Free Press Initiative
15. Non-Governmental Coordinating Council (NGOCC)
16. Caritas Zambia
17. Media Network on Child Rights & Development
18. Bloggers of Zambia
19. Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS International)
20. Sister Kayula Lesa, RSC
21. Friends of Mother Earth
22. I am Leadership Development Movement
23. The Peoples Initiative Charter (PIC)
24. Zambian Cyber Security Initiative Foundation
25. Faith and Encounter Centre Zambia (FENZA)
26. Chapter One Foundation (COF)
27. Sport-Aid Development Trust
28. Bernard Yambala Education Fund
29. Justice Coalition of Religious (JCOR)



**Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR)**

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2023-11-09

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Muyebe, Alex S.J

The Access to Information (ATI) Coalition

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